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Economic Survey of the Village of Eckville  
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ECONOMIC SURVEY  
OF THE

VILLAGE of Eckville

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS *Industry*

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

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ECONOMIC SURVEY  
VILLAGE OF ECKVILLE  
BY  
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

This survey was compiled with the assistance of Village Officials, Board of Trade and citizens who are familiar with the history of the village.

MAY, 1950  
REVISED JUNE, 1953

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## VILLAGE OF ECKVILLE

### (1) LOCATION

Northeast quarter of section 16-39-3-W5 and southeast quarter of section 21-29-3-W5 in census Division No. 9. Eckville is on highway no. 11 and on the Canadian Pacific Railway branch line from Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House and on the Canadian National Railway branch line from Mirror to Nordegg.

(2)	<u>ALTITUDE</u>	<u>LATITUDE</u>	<u>LONGITUDE</u>
	3,044 feet	52°22'	114°21'

### (3) TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature	52°F
Mean winter temperature	20°F
Mean annual temperature	34°F

Note: The foregoing is estimated from data obtained from the nearest weather station and covers a 22-year period.

### (4) RAINFALL

Average rainfall	13.56 inches
Average snowfall	55.7 inches
Average total precipitation	19.13 inches

Note: The foregoing is estimated from data obtained from the nearest weather station and covers a 22-year period.

### (5) GEOLOGY

The underlying rocks in the Eckville district are shales and sandstones which were deposited by streams in lakes and deltas. They are thus fresh water in origin and are several hundred feet thick in that area. The rocks are grouped together by geologists, who call them the Paskapoo Formation, and who give them an early Tertiary Age, which began some 50 million years ago. Since these rocks were deposited, the North American Continent has been uplifted, consequently, the rocks have been eroded and only a fraction of their original thickness remains.

During the Ice Age, glaciers moved over this area, depositing on the surface, boulder clay and similar glacial deposits. Many of the hills and smaller elevations in this area consist of glacial deposits.

### (6) SOIL

Eckville is in the Black and Transition Soil zones.

#### Black

Soil Profile: The normal profile has a black to very dark brown surface horizon that averages about 12 to 14 inches in depth. The more compact horizon underneath is brown to dark brown, and the lime layer is usually found at 30 to 40 inches below the surface.

Fertility: Soils in this zone are the most fertile in the province and they have in their surface foot about three to four times as much nitrogen and organic matter as there is in the average brown or gray wooded soil. Every precaution should be taken to see that they are not allowed to deteriorate.

Vegetation: Grassland which has been partially invaded by woodlands (mainly deciduous trees) often referred to as parkland.

Land Use: A high percentage of the zone is arable. Wheat of fairly good quality can be grown, but mixed farming including the use of fertilizer when needed, is desirable from the stand point of both profit and permanence.

#### Transition

Soil Profile: Generally quite mixed, ranging from nearly black to gray. The surface horizon consists of a thin layer of semi-decomposed litter which may be absent in burned over areas, underlain by a mineral horizon that can usually be divided into two parts. The upper part may be black, gray black or dark brown. The lower part is frequently somewhat leached of organic matter and considerably grayer. The total depth of these surface horizons averages about 10 to 12 inches. The lower horizons are generally dark brown in color and lime is found at depths of about 30 to 40 inches.

Fertility: These soils are usually not as rich as those in the black zone. Leaching of the surface horizons has resulted in the loss of some plant foods.

Vegetation: Mainly woodlands in which the tree growth is frequently denser and has more evergreens than in the black zone.

Land Use: This is a mixed farming area in which legumes, hays and coarse grains are the most desirable crops. Rotation, including legumes and supplemented with fertilizers where needed, has given the most satisfactory results.

(7)

#### HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Eckville was named officially, for an early settler there, A. E. T. Eckford, although the Canadian Pacific Railway Station is still referred to as Kootuk at times. The original village of Eckville was situated a mile and a half north of the present townsite.

Eckville's first postmaster was J. H. Kellick, who began operating the post office from his general store in 1905.

With the coming of the Canadian National Railway in 1912 and the Alberta Central Railway (taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railways in 1914) the village and district experienced a large influx of home-steaders and townspeople.

The first church to hold services in the village

was the Presbyterian. The first school, built in 1908, is now used as a church.

A branch of the Bank of Commerce was opened in Eckville in 1918, under the managership of J. W. MacIntosh.

(8) LIVING CONDITIONS

The streets and buildings of the village are clean and well kept. The surrounding country is rich mixed farming area.

Fifteen miles east of the village is Sylvan Lake, a popular resort for boating, fishing and swimming.

The average rent for a modern five-room house with electricity is \$30 per month.

Number of buildings constructed during 1947 - 4  
Number of buildings constructed during 1948 - 5  
Number of buildings constructed during 1949 - 4

About 90% of the homes are owner-occupied.

(9) ADMINISTRATION

The village is governed by a council consisting of a Mayor selected from the Council and two Councillors, one elected each year for a three year term.

The Secretary-Treasurer carries out the policy set forth by the Council.

(10) LAWS AND REGULATIONS

All new buildings, repairs to buildings and removal of buildings must be approved by the Council, before a permit is issued.

The Electrical Code conforms to the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

The Alberta Public Health Regulations govern the Sanitary By-Laws.

The village is policed by the R.C.M.P. from their detachment at Rocky Mountain House.

Garbage is collected weekly.

(11) FIRE PROTECTION

Very little in the way of fire protection.

The only equipment is an extinguisher and electric fire siren.

(12) TAX STRUCTURE

	<u>1952 Net Assessment</u>
Land & Improvements 100% value	\$358,528
Personal Property	113,381
Power	<u>15,800</u>
Total	\$487,709

Mill Rate (1952)

<u>School</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Total</u>
26	11	9	46 mills

(13) AREAS

Area of village	102.97 acres
Streets and lanes	24.54 acres
Parks	11.16 acres

Miles of Roads, Streets and Lanes

	<u>Gravel</u>	<u>Unpaved</u>	<u>Unopened</u>	<u>Total</u>
Provincial main roads	-	-	-	-
Roads and streets	3	-	-	3
Public lanes and alleys	1.15	-	-	1.15
Total				4.15

There are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of cement sidewalks

(14) SEWERS AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Not installed as yet.

(15) POWER

Three phase 60-cycle power is supplied under a ten-year franchise by the Calgary Power Company Limited.

Rates

Domestic Service:

Available only for lighting, heating, cooking and domestic power and ordinary uses in private houses and apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH (or less) per month, \$3.00 gross minimum. Subject to 30% prompt payment discount making \$2.70 net minimum.

All over 20 KWH used per month 1.5% net per KWH. Note: Discount of 30% applies on all bills paid within discount period.

The foregoing rate applies where the maximum demand does not exceed five Kilowatts. Where the demand exceeds five Kilowatts, an additional monthly demand charge of 50¢ per Kilowatt will be made.

Connection charge for new customers, \$1.00

Reconnection charge, \$5.40

Commercial Service:

Available where other rates listed do not apply.

Service Charge

First 500 watts of installed capacity, 10¢ per month. Each additional 250 watts of installed capacity, 30¢ per month.

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH per month per KW of installation,  
10¢ per KWH.

Next 150 KWH per month per KW of installation,  
5¢ per KWH.

All over 200 KWH per month per KW of installation,  
2 1/4¢ per KWH.

Discount: 10% if paid within discount period,  
based on the even dollars only of total bill,  
with a minimum discount of 30%.

Minimum charge, \$2.30 gross, \$2.00 net per month.

Minimum deposit, \$4.60.

Reconnection charge, \$4.00

Power Service

(AC) Available for motors, rectifiers, commercial  
heating, apparatus, etc., in commercial establish-  
ments.

Service Charge

\$1.00 per month per Kilovolt ampere (KVA) of  
installation (one motor horsepower or one kilowatt  
in heating apparatus to be considered equivalent to  
one KVA).

Energy Charge

First 50 KWH per month per KVA of installation,  
5¢ per KWH.

Next 50 KWH per month per KVA of installation,  
3 1/3¢ per KWH.

All over 100 KWH per month per KVA of installation,  
1 2/3¢ per KWH.

Discount: 10% if paid within discount period -  
based on the even dollars only of total bill, with  
a minimum discount of 30%.

Minimum charge, \$3.30 gross, \$3.00 net per month.

Minimum deposit, \$2.00 per H.P. with a minimum of \$6.00.

Reconnection charge, \$6.00.

(16) WATER

Water is obtained from local wells, practically all  
homes having their own wells.

A water analysis is not available.

(17) GAS

Not installed as yet.

(18) L.P. GAS

No agent in the village.

(19) DIESEL

Heat value 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u.'s per gallon at 60°F.

Winter grade, 20.2¢ per gallon (plus 1¢ tax).

Summer grade, 18.9¢ per gallon (plus 1¢ tax).

(20) COAL

Coal is obtained from the Drumheller and Saunders fields.

Rates: (per ton)

	Slack	Nut	Lump
Drumheller	\$ 9.65	\$ 9.95	\$12.95
Saunders	11.00	12.00	14.00

(21) LOCAL RESOURCES

Lumber  
Straw  
Cereal  
Grass Seed  
Dairy Products (milk, cream, butter, etc.)  
Furs  
Poultry  
Horses, cattle, sheep, hogs  
Honey  
Sand  
Gravel

(22) GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal

Post Office

Provincial

Treasury Branch  
Telephone Office, Eckville Mutual

Municipal

Memorial Hall, housing Secretary-Treasurer and Council Chambers

(23) HEALTH SERVICES

Eckville Municipal Hospital No. 30 has 29 beds and six bassinets. There is a staff of one matron, five graduate nurses and six nurses' aids, a cook, assistant cook, laundress, three house maids, a kitchen maid and a janitor.

Rates

Ratepayers, \$4.50 per day  
Non-ratepayers, \$7.50 per day

One private practising physician  
One intern  
One drug store

(24) PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED SERVICES  
(not including health services)

Barristers and Lawyers 1 calling weekly

Barber Shops	1
Public Accountant	2

(25) TRANSPORTATION

Canadian National Railway branch line, Mirror to Nordegg.  
Canadian Pacific Railway branch line Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House.  
Sorenson Bus Line, Red Deer to Rocky Mountain House.  
Daily truck service to and from Edmonton and Calgary.

(26) NEWSPAPERS

Eckville Examiner, weekly publication.  
Circulation - 515

(27) COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian Pacific Telegraphs  
Canadian National Telegraphs  
Alberta Government Telephones  
Post Office  
Air mail through post office  
Nearest Radio Station - Red Deer, CKRD

(28) FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Imperial Bank of Canada  
Treasury Branch  
Eckville Credit Union

(29) HOTELS

	<u>No. of rooms</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Licensed</u>
Eckville	16	\$1.75 and up	Yes

(30) TOURIST CAMPS

Nil

(31) CHURCHES

Presbyterian  
Nazarene

(32) LODGES

Modern Woodmen of America

(33) SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Club  
Board of Trade  
Canadian Legion

(34) SOCIETIES

Agricultural Society  
Red Cross Society  
Fish & Game Association  
Alberta Teachers' Association

(35) EDUCATION

Eckville School Division No. 1459 maintains an eight-room school, with eight teachers. There are 229 students in grades 1 to 12 inclusive. Three school

vans provide transportation for pupils living in the rural districts.

The following optional subjects are offered in the school:

Typewriting  
Stenography  
Business  
Art  
Drama  
Home Economics  
Woodworking

(36) THEATRES AND HALLS

	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Stage</u>	<u>Piano</u>
Ecko	300	no	no
Memorial	500	yes	yes

(37) CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Drama Club in the school only.

(38) YOUTH ACTIVITIES

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
Brownies	Calf Club
Girl Guides	Boy Scouts
	Wolf Cubs
	Cadets

(39) SPORTS

Sports Association including:-

Baseball senior and junior  
Hockey senior and junior  
Softball senior and junior  
Basketball  
Football  
Curling

Covered curling rink with two sheets of natural ice.

Open air skating and hockey rink.

Sports ground

Children's playground

(40) FAIRS

Sports Day only

(41) HISTORIC SITES

Nil

(42) CO-OPERATIVES

Central Alberta Dairy Pool  
Central Alberta Livestock Shipping Association  
Alberta Pool Elevator  
U.G. G.  
Co-op General Store  
Co-op Hardware  
Co-op Machinery Distributors  
Telephone Mutuals and Power Co-ops

Co-op Seed Cleaning Plant  
Maple Leaf Co-op Oil Distributors  
Eckville Credit Union

(43) INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Type of Business	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Whole- sale	Re-tail
Bakeries	1	"	"	1
Banks	2	"	"	2
Barbers	2	"	"	2
Butchers	2	"	"	2
Building Contractors	4	"	"	4
Blacksmith Shop	1	"	"	1
Cartage delivery	1	"	"	1
Clothing (Women's)	1	"	"	1
Coal Dealers	2	"	"	2
Cold Storage Lockers	1	"	"	1
Creameries	1	"	"	1
Department Stores	2	"	"	2
Doctors	2	"	"	2
Drugstores	1	"	"	1
Egg Grading Station	1	"	"	1
Electrical Appliances	2	"	"	2
Electrical Contractors	2	"	"	2
Feed Plant	1	"	"	1
Garages and Service Stations	7	"	"	7
Grain Elevators	4	- total capacity, 120,000 bus.		
Hair Dressers	1	"	"	1
Hardware	3	"	"	3
Hotels	1	"	"	1
Harness Maker	1	"	"	1
Implements	4	"	"	4
Jewellers	1	"	"	1
Lumber Yards	2	"	"	2
Lumber Mills	1	"	"	1
Milk Distributors	1	"	"	1
Oil Distributors	3	"	"	3
Painters & Decorators	2	"	"	2
Pool Rooms	1	"	"	1
Printing Shops	1	"	"	1
Public Accountants	2	"	"	2
Radio Repair	2	"	"	2
Restaurants	4	"	"	4
Seed Cleaning Plants	1	"	"	1
Shoe Repair	1	"	"	1
Sporting Shops	See Hardware Stores			
Tailor Shops	1	"	"	1
Theatres	1	"	"	1
Welding & Machine Shop	4	"	"	4

(44) SITES

Sites, with electricity, for large and small industries are available along the railway and highway. Home sites, also served with electricity, are available.

(45) INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Eckville can provide good living conditions and an opportunity for any industry that can use the district resources or provide a needed service for the trading area. There is presently an urgent need for a hair dresser, watch repair and dry cleaning businesses.

(46) TRADING AREA

On the north to Rimbey, west to Leslieville, south to Evergreen and east to Benalto.

(47) POPULATION

Trading Area population	5,176	1951 census
Village population	376	1951 census
Village population at end of May, 1953	416	estimated

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
MAP SHOWING  
CENSUS DIVISIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA



